

THE NAVY REORGANIZATION.

Progress of Reform in the Department, Notwithstanding Republican Dead-Weight.

In his annual report for 1895 Secretary Whitney called attention to the difficulties and drawbacks under which the Navy Department labored, and in his second report, last year, he again insisted upon the necessity of a reorganization of the department. Congress is now wrestling with the question. The bill embodying the substantial points in Mr. Whitney's report passed the Naval Committee of the House with but two dissenting votes—Messrs. Boutelle, of Maine, and Goff, of West Virginia—and was warmly discussed before the House on Thursday. The objections by the Maine Representative and his West Virginia "me too" are mainly based upon the ground that what was good enough for the Navy Department half a century ago should answer now. They do not believe in new measures or new methods for that department. According to their peculiar line of reasoning the type of ships that carried the American flag fifty years ago would answer all necessary purposes at the present day. It is well that Mr. Boutelle and Mr. Goff are in the minority in the report of the committee on this all-important subject. They would, doubtless, prove fitting associates for the "ancient mariner."

At a time when Congress has empowered the Secretary of the Navy to undertake the responsible work of creating a navy that is to compare favorably with the fleets of other nations, and to embody the latest improvements and inventions in naval architecture, it is, to say the least, remarkable for a presumably sane member of Congress to oppose the reorganization of the department on the ground that what was designed fifty years since should answer all contingencies now. Mr. Whitney instanced cases in which the present system was found to be notably defective. One was where, in the same year, coal was purchased by different paymasters from the same persons, or about the same days, deliverable at the very same place, of like quality and character, but at prices differing from fifty to sixty-five cents a ton. Another result of the system was in the case of the Omaha, a repaired wooden vessel, incapable of fighting or running away from any modern cruiser. She was rebuilt under the Chandler regime at an expense of \$372,000, which would have sufficed to build a modern steel ship of her size with all modern characteristics. After the Omaha had been commissioned and was ready for sea, it appeared that the several bureaus working independently upon her had so completely appropriated her space that they had left her room for not more than four days' steaming at her full capacity. Each bureau, too, finds it necessary to maintain its separate shops in the several navy yards, each with a separate organization of foremen, quartermen, leading men, etc., so that shops doing precisely the same class of work—carpenter shops and machine shops, for instance, are commonly duplicated and sometimes triplicated in the same navy yard, with a corresponding multiplicity of foremen and organization expenses—a state of things which, under the present organization of the department, is almost impossible to correct.

The bill now before Congress consolidates and puts in efficient working shape many of the bureaus of the department, and is also designed to save a great deal of unnecessary expense to the Government. It is fairly and purely a business proposition to enable the Secretary of the Navy to carry out the great work before him with success. But Mr. Boutelle, like Mr. Blaine, from his State, sees politics in every thing, even in the reorganization of the Navy Department. He, probably, thinks it would be had Republican politics to let Mr. Whitney succeed in creating a navy worthy of our country. Before he took charge of the department the Government had expended, in seventeen years, over \$75,000,000 on the construction, repair, equipment and ordnance of vessels, which sum, with a very slight exception, was substantially thrown away. During those years the department drifted along without consideration of what was done and with no intelligent guidance in any direction. Failure after failure and the expenditure of vast sums of money, without appreciable return, were the results of the ill-advised and inconsistent manner in which important steps were taken under the present system. There is little doubt but that the desired reform in the organization of the Navy Department will be granted by Congress in spite of the objections of the ancient mariner from Bangor, or the ex-rudder of "Uncle Sam's" navy" from the banks of the raging Kanawha.

Millionaire Republican Senators.

The United States Senate is now nearly evenly divided between the two parties. Twelve years ago it contained only nineteen Democrats out of seventy-four members. In recent Senatorial elections the Republicans sent to the Senate Stanford, of California; Allison, of Iowa; Sabin, of Minnesota; Jones, of Nevada; Mitchell, of Oregon; Don Cameron, of Pennsylvania; and Spooner, of Wisconsin, all of whom hold their seats till 1891.

In this year's Senatorial elections the Republicans add to the number Farwell, of Illinois; Stockbridge, of Michigan; Stewart, of Nevada, and Quay, of Pennsylvania. There is a single one of all these who is distinguished for statesmanship, for oratory, for experience in national affairs? Is there one who would be a United States Senator if he did not possess large wealth or was not a creature of corporations?

Just as surely as the Republican power in the Senate has declined in the past it will continue to decline in the future, if the party thus ignores the public interests and the honor of the country and lends itself to the purposes of corporations and the ambitions of a moneyed aristocracy.—N. Y. World.

IS HE IN POLITICS?

Unpleasant Among the "Blainians" As to Ex-Senator Conkling's Intentions.

There may be yet more grief in store for the Blainians. A new figure looms up whom Blaine thought he had left *hors de combat*. It is no less a person than Roscoe Conkling, who is still not by any means an old man. That he is a power in the party nobody denies. A correspondent of the Philadelphia Record has been looking the matter up. He says:

It would not be a matter of surprise to the veteran politicians if Mr. Conkling should turn up at Albany as a candidate for election to the United States Senate—though it would be in the nature of an unpleasant surprise for Mr. Blaine. I notice that our Roscoe is again giving close attention to his attire, and that he wears good clothes, terms his head and changes his necktie frequently. These signs, in the case of a widower, always indicate matrimony, and with Mr. Conkling, may be taken for granted. He is a co-partner in politics and was the Republican majority in the Legislature. Besides, he has made a snug little sum in the last six years, and has had by and by invested \$250,000 for his old age, his wife having as much more in her own right. So Mr. Conkling, at fifty-eight, short, handsome and elegant, whose badge of age is worth \$250,000 to his party any day, may safely assume to the Senate as New York's only great Republican leader, and not unreasonably he may have an eye upon the Presidency.

Conkling would naturally take the place of Logan as a stalwart leader. He will be even more formidable, for he has no recent quarrels to heal up as Logan's quarrels were not so noble and creditable as Logan's, but they were not so recent. He is incomparably superior to Blaine in every manly trait. He would not be driven to so many personal explanations involving downright falsehood. Still, he may have learned to dislike politics, and he may also have no aspirations higher than the Senate. He might give the New York Blaine henchmen some trouble on that score. Blaine can't afford to let Conkling back into public life on any terms or for any purpose. Preconceived purposes and final acts do not always correspond in magnitude.

Our advice to the unhappy storm-driven Blaine boomers is to keep a weather eye on Conkling. His motives may be the most innocent in the world. But even then he may experience new motives. Where power is ample and nothing is lacking but a motive it is safe to look out. Motives come with strange suddenness and from strange sources sometimes. It is a pity for the Blaine people. Their distress is extreme, and has led them to do some questionable things of late in order to save their candidate at least until convention time. They had a long siege trying to get him nominated, and then failed to get him elected, and any further disasters are cruel to the extent of exciting sympathy even among bitter enemies.—Des Moines Leader.

The Republicans' "Navy."

In a letter to Congressman Lawler Admiral Porter made use of the expressions: "Every harbor on our coast is at the mercy of hostile guns." "Our lakeboard cities are entirely open." "There is not a nation on earth that could not wage war upon our coasts with perfect impunity." "We have but a single frigate which could be made ready to fire a gun in months." The old navy is gone or is going so fast that it is no longer available for war purposes. The new navy is yet on the stocks or on paper.

For the purpose of emphasizing the recklessness and corruption of the era which brought the great navy of the war period to this condition, the amount of money expended on the establishment of the navy from 1869 to 1877 is here with appended:

1869.....\$10,000,000
1870.....21,000,000
1871.....21,000,000
1872.....21,000,000
1873.....21,000,000
1874.....21,000,000
1875.....21,000,000
1876.....21,000,000
1877.....21,000,000
Total.....\$156,000,000

Here was an aggregate appropriation in eight years of more than \$170,000,000. During that period the British Government expended about twice as much money on its navy, and it held in 1877, as it has now, the most formidable fleet in the world. The question naturally arises: If by spending one-half as much money as England the United States can not at present show a single ship of war capable of meeting and resisting a hostile fleet, how many more millions would they have been compelled to spend in order to have had one such vessel?

The grotesque insincerity of the organs of the dispensation which reduced the American navy to this deplorable condition in pretending that Robesonism and Roachism are things to be honored and applauded will not long survive inspection of the figures and a glance at the results. Admiral Porter's review of the situation places matters in as bad a light as has yet been thrown upon them, and the emphasis with which he dwells upon them can not be ascribed to partisanship. It is the duty of Congress to look the facts squarely in the face, to repair the waste and to lose no time in furthering the plans of the department for an entire reconstruction of the fleet.—Chicago Herald.

NEWSPAPER NOTES.

—The Republicans of the Indiana Legislature have nominated Senator Harrison by acclamation, but the reclamation is strictly confined to the nomination. The Senator will graciously accept of any kind of an election he can get.—N. Y. World.

—Mr. Blaine has accepted an invitation to address the Detroit Republican Club on the occasion of Washington's birthday. If, taking the character of Washington for his theme, he should give eloquent utterance to the beauty of truth it would be from the promptings of imagination, rather than personal experience.—Chicago Times.

—With a Democratic President trying to give the office of Recorder to a colored man and a Republican Senate trying to keep him from doing so, the impression is likely to be made on the negro mind that, after all, the Democrats and not the Republicans are the friends of the colored race. Should this condition of mind come to be prevalent the solid South will be solidly over, and the last argument of the bloody-shirt group of Republicans will be crushed out of all semblance to argument.—Chicago News.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

Seven million children attend school daily in this country and about six million wish they didn't have to.

—A great religious revival is sweeping over Northern New Brunswick. It is said to be unequalled in the history of the province.

—At Zurich 29 women are now pursuing the study of medicine in London 48, and at Paris, 103. At the latter 18 have obtained their diplomas of doctor during the past seven years.

—Newspaper dispatches say that at the last meeting in Omaha, Neb., of Rev. Sam Jones he secured contributions for a new Young Men's Christian Association building amounting to \$81,000.

—Before sailing for home General Booth, of the Salvation Army, claimed that during his stay in this country he had put in 696 hours on the cars, had taken to 189,000 American sinners at 129 meetings, and had saved 2,500 souls.

—After twenty-eight miles of riding in a wagon, fourteen miles on horseback, and organizing a Sunday-school, a missionary met a dozen cowboys in the evening, and they spent an hour in singing gospel hymns.—Christian at Work.

—During the past year \$18,284,986 was expended for educational purposes in the State of New York. Of this amount \$9,102,268 was for teachers' wages. There are 31,325 school-children and 1,735,073 school children in the State.—N. Y. Tribune.

—It is reported that Dr. Moody has received from Mr. D. M. Weston, of the Shawmut Church, Boston, a donation of \$50,000, to be applied to his educational work at Northfield and Mt. Hermon, Mass. With this gift another dormitory is to be built.—Boston Journal.

—At a reception given to the Baptist Union at its late meeting in Bristol, England, by the mayor of the city, its president said that on the 4th of October, 1658, the Mayor of Bristol sent two Baptist ministers to prison for preaching, but on the 4th of October, 1886, its mayor gave a grand reception to Baptist ministers.

—The trustees of Columbia College, New York City, have voted to celebrate its centennial next April. In the various departments, literary and scientific, there are 1,514 students this year. The authorities have negated the students' petition that Greek and Latin be made elective studies after sophomore year.—N. Y. Mail.

MARKET REPORTS.

Grain and Provisions.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29.
FLOUR—Easy; XXX, \$2.60; XX, \$2.50; XXS, \$2.40; choice, \$2.30; fancy, \$2.20; extra, \$2.10; superfine, \$2.00.
WHEAT—Active; No. 2 red, cash, \$0.90; No. 2 white, cash, \$0.85; No. 2 red, Feb. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 white, Feb. 1, \$0.85; No. 2 red, March 1, \$0.90; No. 2 white, March 1, \$0.85.
COAL—Dull; No. 2 mixed, cash, \$0.90; No. 2 white, cash, \$0.85; No. 2 red, Feb. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 white, Feb. 1, \$0.85; No. 2 red, March 1, \$0.90; No. 2 white, March 1, \$0.85.
BAKED—No. 2, \$0.85; No. 2 white, \$0.80; No. 2 red, \$0.75; No. 2 white, \$0.70; No. 2 red, \$0.65; No. 2 white, \$0.60; No. 2 red, \$0.55; No. 2 white, \$0.50; No. 2 red, \$0.45; No. 2 white, \$0.40; No. 2 red, \$0.35; No. 2 white, \$0.30; No. 2 red, \$0.25; No. 2 white, \$0.20; No. 2 red, \$0.15; No. 2 white, \$0.10; No. 2 red, \$0.05; No. 2 white, \$0.00.

CHICAGO, Jan. 29.
FLOUR—Unchanged; winter patents, \$2.50; southern winter wheat flour, \$2.40; soft spring wheat patents, \$2.30; extra, \$2.20; superfine, \$2.10; No. 2 spring, \$2.00; No. 2 spring, \$1.90; No. 2 spring, \$1.80; No. 2 spring, \$1.70; No. 2 spring, \$1.60; No. 2 spring, \$1.50; No. 2 spring, \$1.40; No. 2 spring, \$1.30; No. 2 spring, \$1.20; No. 2 spring, \$1.10; No. 2 spring, \$1.00; No. 2 spring, \$0.90; No. 2 spring, \$0.80; No. 2 spring, \$0.70; No. 2 spring, \$0.60; No. 2 spring, \$0.50; No. 2 spring, \$0.40; No. 2 spring, \$0.30; No. 2 spring, \$0.20; No. 2 spring, \$0.10; No. 2 spring, \$0.00.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.
FLOUR—Unchanged; superfine western and state, \$2.50; common to choice white extra western extra, \$2.40; common to choice extra St. Louis, \$2.30; No. 2, \$2.20; No. 2, \$2.10; No. 2, \$2.00; No. 2, \$1.90; No. 2, \$1.80; No. 2, \$1.70; No. 2, \$1.60; No. 2, \$1.50; No. 2, \$1.40; No. 2, \$1.30; No. 2, \$1.20; No. 2, \$1.10; No. 2, \$1.00; No. 2, \$0.90; No. 2, \$0.80; No. 2, \$0.70; No. 2, \$0.60; No. 2, \$0.50; No. 2, \$0.40; No. 2, \$0.30; No. 2, \$0.20; No. 2, \$0.10; No. 2, \$0.00.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29.
FLOUR—Quiet; XX, \$2.60; XXS, \$2.50; XXS, \$2.40; choice, \$2.30; fancy, \$2.20; extra, \$2.10; superfine, \$2.00.
WHEAT—Steady; No. 2 soft winter, cash, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Feb. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, March 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, April 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, May 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, June 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, July 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Aug. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Sept. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Oct. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Nov. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Dec. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Jan. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Feb. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, March 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, April 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, May 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, June 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, July 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Aug. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Sept. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Oct. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Nov. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Dec. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Jan. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, Feb. 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, March 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, April 1, \$0.90; No. 2 soft winter, May 1, \$0.90; 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